

# Garcia Mendez Denies Merger Of CAP, GOP

Statehood Republican Party President Sen. Miguel Angel García Méndez has denied that the Statehood Party would merge with the Christian Action Party as was implied in an article appearing in the political affairs weekly, *The Nation*.

Interviewed after his arrival from a ten-day vacation trip to New York, the senator said, "There is not the slightest possibility that the Republican Party will merge or in any way join forces with the CAP or any other party."

The *Nation* article, written by Stanley Meisler, who is described as a Washington D. C. newspaper man who recently visited the island, is entitled "The Gov-

ernor and the Bishops."

It reviews the recent controversy between Muñoz and the Catholic Bishops. The article says:

"Despite its humiliating defeat, the Church is unlikely to retire from politics...in past campaigns Bishop (James E.) McManus a friend of (defeated Statehood Party candidate Luis Ferre), has backed the Statehood Party and during the 1960 campaign, Ferre embraced the sentiment of the pastoral letters."

"Should Muñoz Marin leave a weak, leaderless, splintering Popular Democratic Party when he retires, an extremely conservative Statehood-Catholic Party

could emerge as the country's dominant political power," said Meisler's story.

Antonio Guzman, executive assistant to Garcia, yesterday pointed out that the Executive Committee of the Statehood Republican Party agreed that no effort will be made to help the CAP or any other party when it last met on Nov. 20.